

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-42 (canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing development of a melanocyte to primary melanoma and/or~~ treating metastatic melanoma in a patient in need thereof, comprising selectively antagonizing the endothelin B receptor (ETB) in said patient, with the proviso that said method does not include ~~anti-sense~~ gene therapy.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is antagonized by administration of a selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist.
45. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing development of a melanocyte to primary melanoma and/or~~ treating metastatic melanoma in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to a said patient in need thereof, with the proviso that said method does not include gene therapy.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is a peptide inhibitor.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is an endothelin B receptor (ETB) antibody.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is a peptide inhibitor.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is an endothelin B receptor (ETB) antibody.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is BQ788.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is IRL-1038.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is RES-701-1.
53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is BQ788.
54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is IRL-1038.
55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is RES-701-1.
56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said patient displays one or more atypical moles.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said patient displays one or more atypical moles.
58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the ability of the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to antagonize the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is determined *in vitro* by:
- a) contacting a cell culture expressing endothelin B receptor (ETB) and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound;
 - b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression; and
 - c) comparing the level of E-cadherin expression determined in step b) to that of a control culture in the absence of said compound, so that an increase in expression of E-cadherin indicates antagonist activity.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the ability of the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to antagonize the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is determined *in vitro* by:

- a) contacting a cell culture expressing endothelin B receptor (ETB) and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound;
 - b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression; and
 - c) comparing the level of E-cadherin expression determined in step b) to that of a control culture in the absence of said compound, so that an increase in expression of E-cadherin indicates antagonist activity.
60. (New) A method for preventing metastatic melanoma in a patient diagnosed with melanoma, comprising selectively antagonizing the endothelin B receptor (ETB) in said patient, with the proviso that said method does not include gene therapy.
61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is antagonized by administration of a selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist.
62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein said patient displays one or more atypical moles.
63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is a peptide inhibitor.
64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is an endothelin B receptor (ETB) antibody.
65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is BQ788.
66. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is IRL-1038.
67. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is RES-701-1.
68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the ability of the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to antagonize the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is determined *in vitro* by:

- a) contacting a cell culture expressing endothelin B receptor (ETB) and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound;
 - b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression; and
 - c) comparing the level of E-cadherin expression determined in step b) to that of a control culture in the absence of said compound, so that an increase in expression of E-cadherin indicates antagonist activity.
69. (New) A method for preventing metastatic melanoma in a patient diagnosed with melanoma, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to said patient, with the proviso that said method does not include gene therapy.
70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is a peptide inhibitor.
71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is an endothelin B receptor (ETB) antibody.
72. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is BQ788.
73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is IRL-1038.
74. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist is RES-701-1.
75. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said patient displays one or more atypical moles.
76. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the ability of the selective endothelin B receptor (ETB) antagonist to antagonize the endothelin B receptor (ETB) is determined *in vitro* by:
- a) contacting a cell culture expressing endothelin B receptor (ETB) and E-cadherin with endothelin and the compound;

- b) determining the level of E-cadherin expression; and
- c) comparing the level of E-cadherin expression determined in step b) to that of a control culture in the absence of said compound, so that an increase in expression of E-cadherin indicates antagonist activity.